Inclusion of India and China in G-8 Countries

†1031. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia the head of group of G-8 countries are not in favour of including India and China in extended group of G-8 countries; and

(b) if so, reasons for such protest and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No. There is no proposal for the expansion of the G-8, to also include India and China, which is under consideration. The Russian Federation is, however, carrying out consultations with India and other countries in the context of their Presidency of the G-8.

(b) Does not arise.

Rail link with Burma

1032. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to approve to the proposal of Railways for setting up of a rail link with Burma, crossing through the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) by when it would be completed;

(d) whether Government have studied border security situation between North-East and Burma; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A feasibility study has been conducted for an India-Myanmar rail link. The feasibility study suggested the following alignments.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In India.

(i) Construction of new rail link between Jiribam-Imphal-Moreh at a cost of Rs. 2941.08 crore.

In Myanmar:

(ii) Construction of a new rail link between Tamu (Moreh)-Kalay-Segyi at a cost of Rs. 1339.02 crore and rehabilitation of existing line from Segyi-Chaungu Mohaung at a cost of Rs. 283.959 crore.

(c) The Jiribam-Imphal (Tupui) sector is scheduled to be completed by March 2010. No decision has been taken with regard to construction/ rehabilitation on the other sectors.

(d) and (e) The security situation in the border areas is under constant review.

Use of chemical weapons by Pakistan

1033. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports of the alleged use of chemical weapons by Pakistani forces in Balochistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures Government propose to take to counter any such use of dangerous chemical weapons against our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) It has been reported in the Pakistani media that Pakistani forces used chemical weapons in Balochistan recently.

On 24 December 2005, Senator Sanaullah Baloch of the Balochistan National Party (BNP) alleged that the army was using gas and chemicals against Balochs. On 24 December 2005, Senators belonging to the nationalist parties of Balochistan accused the military of using poison gas in Kohlu, Balochistan, and of carpet bombing civilians in the area. On 7 February 2006, Mr. Agha Shahid Hasan Bugti, Secretary-General of Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP), accused the paramilitary forces of firing chemical gas shells on civilian population in Dera Bugti, Balochistan.